INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internation No PCT/CA2004/000620

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B22F9/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Minimum documentation searched} & \text{(classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ IPC 7 & B22F & C01G & C22B \end{array}$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX

	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	GB 2 399 815 A (CHEMICAL VAPOUR METAL REFINING) 29 September 2004 (2004-09-29) page 2, line 27 - page 3, line 29 page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 20 claims 1-19; figures; examples 3-5	1-21
E	CA 2 418 063 A (FALCONBRIDGE LTD) 30 July 2004 (2004-07-30) the whole document	1-21
	er documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	

Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such documents.
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search	in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
13 December 2004	Date of mailing of the international search report 21/12/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk	Authorized officer
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Ceulemans, J

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Y	page 1, left-hand column, line 11 - line 14 page 1, right-hand column, line 47 - line 65	5-8,10	
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X	US 2 677 607 A (BEIDLER EDWARD A ET AL) 4 May 1954 (1954-05-04)	1-4,9, 15,21	
Y	column 1, line 43 - column 2, line 41 column 3, line 1 - line 41 column 5, line 1 - line 36 column 7, line 8 - line 21 claims; figure	5-8,10	
X	US 3 997 331 A (TITHER DENIS) 14 December 1976 (1976-12-14)	1,9,12, 13,15,	
Y	column 1, line 4 — line 19 column 4, line 67 — column 5, line 13; example 2 claims	17,18 5,10	
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